

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5129

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: SACEUR COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS REPORT

REF: USNATO 4180

1. TEXT OF SECRETRAY GENERALS PO/74/125 SUBJECT 1973 ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT

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TO SACEUR'S COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS REPORT FOLLOWS. ORIGINAL DISTRIBUTION

OF REPORT INCLUDED SIX COPIES FOR SECDEF. MC NOTED THE REPORT BY MCM-58-74 (POUCHED DOD SEPT 3). MISSION COMMENT: SACEURS COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS REPORT MAY WELL INFLUENCE DRC WORK ON MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE. IN PARTICULAR, SOME ALLIES MAY POINT TO THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SACEURS PERSONAL ASSESSMENT AND THE MORE OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF THE CONVENTIONAL BALANCE WE ARE TAKING IN CURRENT DRC DISCUSSION OF KEY ELEMENTS OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE (REFTEL). DURING DPC DISCUSSION OF SACEURS CER, MISSION INTENDS TO STRESS NECESSITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPROVEMENTS CALLED FOR IN US DRAFT ON CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, AS WELL AS AD-70 AND FORCE GOALS, IN AN EFFORT TO CORRECT THE VERY WEAKNESSES WHICH CONCERN SACEUR, AND THUS TO ENSURE CONTINUED DETERRENCE. END COMMENT. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE ABOVE

FOR EARLY DPC MEETING. BEGIN TEXT:

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL HAVE RECEIVED FROM SACEUR HIS 1973 ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT TO HIS 1972 COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS REPORT(1). THIS REPORT WAS CONSIDERED BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AT THEIR MEETING ON 29TH AUGUST, AT WHICH THEY TOOK NOTE OF SACEUR'S ASSESSMENT, AND DREW PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO PARAGRAPH 14 OF HIS COVERING LETTER(2).

2. THESE REPORTS REPRESENT GENERAL GOODPASTER'S PERSONAL ASSESSMENT OF THE COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FORCES ASSIGNED OR EARMARKED TO HIM. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL RECALL THAT WHEN THEY CONSIDERED THE 1972 REPORT(3) THEY DECIDED TO DRAW ITS SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS TO THE ATTENTION OF THEIR POLITICAL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES. THEY WILL ALSO NOTE THAT, DESPITE SOME IMPROVEMENTS ACHIEVED DURING THE FOLLOWING YEAR, SACEUR'S OVERALL ASSESSMENT FOR 1973 REMAINS UNCHANGED.

3. IT IS, OF COURSE, THE AIM OF THE AD 70 PROGRAMME AND IN PARTICULAR THE FORCE GOALS TO CORRECT THE WEAKNESSES TO WHICH SACEUR DRAWS ATTENTION. THE EXTENT TO WHICH COUNTRIES ARE TAKING ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THEIR FORCE GOALS WILL BE MONITORED DURING THE COURSE OF THE 1974 DEFENCE REVIEW, NOW BEGINNING, THE RESULTS OF WHICH WILL BE REPORTED TO MINISTERS AT THEIR DECEMBER MEETING. GENERAL GOODPASTER'S LATEST REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HIS FORCES PROVIDES AN APPROPRIATE BACKGROUND TO THIS PROCESS; I PROPOSE THEREFORE THAT WE DISCUSS IT AT AN EARLY MEETING.

(1) 1101/14-4-4/S30/74 OF 6TH JULY, 1974

(2) MCM-58-74

(3) 1101/14-4-1/S265/73 OF 1ST JUNE 1973

4. IT MAY ALSO BE USEFUL TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON OTHER TOPICS ON WHICH GENERAL GOODPASTER HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN, E.G.

- THE SHIFT OF FORCES FROM THE ASSIGNED TO EARMARKED
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CATEGORY;

- THE STREAMLINING AND SIMPLIFICATION OF THE ALERT
SYSTEM;

- THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS.

5. I THEREFORE PROPOSE TO PLACE THIS REPORT ON AN EARLY
AGENDA OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE.

END TEXT.

2. MISSION COMMENT AND REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE ON ITEMS PARAGRAPH
4 WILL FOLLOW SEPTEL. MCAULIFFE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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